



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

AGENDA ITEM: O'Connor House: Speak Out Arizona

BACKGROUND: Elva Coor, Chair of the Centennial Voter Initiative Committee at the O'Connor House, approached Chairman Lynn and Rhian Allvin about First Things First becoming a partner in the Speak Out Arizona Project. Speak Out Arizona, further described in the attached documents, is an initiative of the O'Connor House with the goal of elevating Arizona into the top 10-ranking states in civic and voter engagement. The O'Connor House is seeking private, nonprofit and government entities to partner in reaching this goal by signing the attached pledge form. Attached is a list of entities that are partnering in this effort. There are many local governmental entities and a few state government entities including the Arizona Department of Education and the Arizona Supreme Court, Juvenile Justice Division.

CEO RECOMMENDATION(S): The Board discusses First Things First involvement and makes a recommendation to the CEO.



THE O'CONNOR HOUSE WHERE CIVIL TALK LEADS TO CIVIC ACTION

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A PLACE
A PROCESS
A STATE OF MIND

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

The Arizona We Want and the AZ Civic Health Index has reported that Arizona ranks in the "bottom 10" of every aspect of voter participation – being informed, registration and turnout – especially in the primaries where many elections are decided. As a result of this data, Justice O'Connor has proposed that the O'Connor House take the lead in convening organizations, government entities and institutions around the state to collaborate in a non-partisan effort to move Arizona to the "top 10" states in informed voter participation. This initiative is being referred to as the "Centennial Voter Initiative" and County Representatives will be identified to lead strategic efforts to reach this goal.

For more information about this committee, please contact:

Elva Coor, *Chair*: elva@oconnorhouse.org

CURRENT PROJECTS

Centennial Voter Initiative: Chaired by Elva Coor

Every Voice counts: Vote!

The Civic Engagement and Education committee strives to address the barriers to voter participation and foster civic education and action among Arizonans through the *Centennial Voter Initiative*.

Specifically, we strive to stimulate an informed and engaged electorate, create more awareness of the importance of voting, provide easy access to fact-based information, register significant numbers of people regardless of party or views, and to get people to the polls in record numbers. Simply put: we hope to empower Arizonans to believe in the democratic process, and demonstrate their civic involvement by voting.

By doing this, we aim to **move Arizona from the bottom 10 states in voter participation and civic engagement to the top 10.**

[To become part of this collaborative effort >](#)



O'Connor House
Civic & Voter Engagement/Education Project

Speak Out Arizona*

Goal: Elevate Arizona into the top 10-ranking states in civic and voter engagement.

Impact: Create an Arizona where:

- citizens better understand issues facing their state.
- 90% of citizens are registered to vote.
- 70% of eligible citizens vote in every election.
- every child learns how our democratic republic works.
- citizens and officials demonstrate civility when solving differences.
- Citizens look to OCH as a trusted source of access to nonpartisan information.

How: The iconic name of Sandra Day O'Connor has proven positive in its ability to convene leaders of hundreds of organizations including state agencies, nonprofits, businesses, schools, faith communities, cities and towns and others to work together on this cause. This collective energy is now a force committed to improving statewide civic education, civic engagement and a more informed and active electorate.

Who Implements: The success of this project relies on the work of teams of volunteers that include individuals and local organizations working together, and at the grassroots level, to improve their communities.

O'Connor House Role: The O'Connor House Speak Out Arizona leadership will provide meetings, a website, social media to ensure opportunities for teams and organizations to network, share best practices, access links to tools, training, resources, information about issues, and calendars for meetings, forums and civil discussions.

Measurements: The Arizona Secretary of State publishes registration and voting information. Civic and informed voter engagement will be reported in the annual National Civic Index report and, the Arizona Civic Health Index. The project's staff tracks names and contact information of its collaborative partners and volunteers. Local teams track the same information for their communities.

Relevant 2008 Voter data (#46 Ranked Arizona vs. #1 Ranked Minnesota):

Minnesota eligible voters registered:	89.8 %
Arizona eligible voters registered	84 %
Difference:	5.8 %
Minnesota eligible voter turnout	78.5 %
Arizona eligible voter turnout	52.3 %
Difference:	16.2 %

**The "Speak Out Arizona" project was inspired by Justice O'Connor, The Gallup Poll's Arizona We Want Report, the National and Arizona Civic Health Index reports, and the collective impact literature published in the Stanford Social Innovation Review. Strategy was developed by the efforts of over 50 organizations working together over months of meetings.*



Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits
 American Association of University Women
 American Islamic Forum for Democracy
 American Planning Association, Arizona Chapter
 Arizona Association of Community Managers
 Arizona AARP
 Arizona Blind & Deaf Children's Foundation
 Arizona Center for After School Excellence
 Arizona Civics Coalition
 Arizona Department of Education
 Arizona Education Network
 Arizona Farm Bureau
 Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education
 Arizona Health Futures
 Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Arizona Historical Society Museum
 Arizona Humanities Council
 Arizona Interfaith Movement
 Arizona Literacy and Learning Center
 Arizona Kids Voting
 Arizona Multihousing Association
 Arizona Public Interest Research Group
 Arizona Public Service
 Arizona School Administrators
 Arizona School Boards Association
 Arizona Students' Association
 Arizona Supreme Court, Juvenile Justice Services Division
 Arizona Town Hall
 ASU Downtown Campus, Undergraduate Student Government
 ASU Educational Outreach & Student Services
 ASU Undergraduate Student Government
 Associated Asset Management
 Associated Students of America
 Audubon Society
 Bashas'
 Beaver Creek Regional Council
 Big Park Regional Coordinatong Council
 Boy Scouts of America
 Boys Team Charity - North Valley Chapter
 Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley
 Boys and Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix
 Camp Verde

Canyon Ranch Spa
 Center for Civic Participation
 Center for Teacher Success
 Citizenship Counts
 City of Avondale
 City of Clarkdale
 City of Cottonwood
 City of Flagstaff
 City of Mesa
 City of Peoria
 City of Peoria Sports Complex
 City of Phoenix
 City of Sedona
 City of Tucson
 Coalition for Compassion & Justice
 Coalition of Sonoran Desert Protection
 Cornville Community Association
 County of Coconino
 County of Pinal
 County of Yavapai
 East Valley Partnership
 Education Network
 Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
 Encore
 Expect More Arizona
 Experience Matters
 First Things First
 First United Methodist Church of Mesa
 Florence Unified School District 1
 Girl Scouts - Arizona Cactus-Pine Council
 Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona - Sahuaro Council
 Glendale Union High School
 Goering, Roberts, Rubin, Brogna, Enos & Treadwell-Rubin
 Greater Yuma Project
 Greenburg Traurig LLP
 Handi-Dogs, Inc.
 Heard Museum
 Inspired Connections
 Interfaith Council
 Keep Sedona Beautiful
 Las Adelitas
 League of Arizona Cities and Towns
 League of Women Voters (LWV)
 League of Women Voters, Central Yavapai County
 League of Women Voters - Sedona/Verde Valley
 League of Women Voters - Tucson
 Littleton Elementary School District
 Maricopa Community College Center for Civic Participation
 Maricopa County Public Health
 Mi Familia Vota
 My Coupon Riot
 National Charity League, Moon Valley Chapter

National Charity League, Scottsdale Chapter
 National Institute for Civil Discourse
 NAU, American Democracy Project
 NAU, Philosophy in the Public Interest
 One Arizona
 Orangedale Neighborhood
 Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO)
 Pan de Vida Foundation
 Pendergast Elementary School District 92
 Pima College Adult Education
 Pima Council on Aging (PCOA)
 Pima County Schools
 Pinal County Attorney's Office
 Pinal Partnership
 Prescott College
 Promise Arizona
 Prescott Arts Journey
 Prescott Good Governance Committee
 Rodel Foundation
 San Tan Historical Society
 San Tan LifePoint Church
 Sedona Community Foundation
 Social Venture Partners
 Soroptimists International of the Kachinas
 St. Luke's Health Initiatives
 Stand for Children
 Support Our Schools
 Tucson Education Association
 Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development
 Urias Communications
 University of Arizona
 Valley Interfaith Project
 Valley of the Sun United Way
 Volunteer Southern Arizona
 Western Maricopa Education Center
 Voices for Education
 Yavapai College
 YWCA Maricopa County
 YMCA Tucson
 Yuma Private Industry Council & Vista High School



Participation Agreement for Sector Partners

O'Connor House Voter Engagement Project

On behalf of (organization) _____, I understand:

1. The Voter Engagement Project is a project of O'Connor House, and that as a Sector Partner, I will honor its vision, mission and the laws governing nonprofits.
2. The Voter Engagement Project is committed to the O'Connor House Vision *To create an Arizona where important policy decisions are made through a process of civil discussion, critical analysis of facts and informed participation of all citizens.*
3. O'Connor House is dedicated to using civil talk that leads to civic action and that the Voter Engagement Project embodies the process of convening, collaboration, and catalyzing action to reach its goals.
4. The Voter Engagement Project is a nonpartisan effort as directed by laws regulating nonprofits.
5. Neither the name of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor nor O'Connor House may be used in conjunction with fundraising for any Sector Partner.
6. My organization will assist to identify and recommend citizens from the communities I serve that could become local teams to assist with registration, "getting out the vote" or related work to implement the strategies.
7. I give The O'Connor House Voter Engagement Project Executive Committee permission to list my name and/or organization as a Partner on its website or related marketing materials.

I have read the above and further understand that the "Participation Agreement for Sector Partners" sets forth the minimum expectations for performance in promoting increased educated voter participation to ensure good government of the people for Arizona's 2nd Century.

Sign your name and title here

Name of Organization

Print your name and title here

Date

Phone, mailing address, preferred email

Please mail, fax or email to: ☐ O'Connor House Voter Engagement Project, attn.: Michelle Reid, Project Coordinator
1300 North College Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85281 ☐ Fax: 480-829-9008 ☐ michelle@oconnorhouse.org